

REMARKS

The Applicant once again wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy and cooperation shown while conducting the telephonic interview of Tuesday, September 20, 2005, with the Applicant's representatives. The Examiner's courtesy and cooperation has proven to be instrumental in advancing the prosecution of the present application. Specifically, the substance of this Amendment was discussed during the interview. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 8, 10, 18 and 20-31 remain pending for examination. Claims 1 – 6, 9, 11 – 17, and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Advisory Action of October 21, 2005, which was issued subsequent to the Applicant's previous response of October 11, 2005, indicates that the amendments to Claims 7 and 20 would be allowable if "submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment cancelling the non-allowable claim(s)." Thus, the Applicants have hereby re-submitted the amendments to Claims 7 and 20, which were originally submitted on October 11, 2005, and canceled the remaining rejected claims. Accordingly, Claims 7, 8, 10, 18 and 20-31 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments to Claims 7 and 20, the rejections cited in the Final Office Action of August 12, 2005, have been overcome, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn. The rejections include the rejection of Claims 7 – 8, 20-21, 25-26, 28, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Margulis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,223,149, hereafter "Margulis"); and the rejection of Claims 10, 13, 18, 19, 22 – 24, 27, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Margulis as modified by one of ordinary skill in the art.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, particularly Claims 7, 8, 10, 18, and 20 – 31. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By: 

Dated: November 10, 2005

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